

REFORM IN SPELLING

Prof. Matthews Gives Reasons for Present Move.

PHONETIC CHANGE IMPOSSIBLE

Simplified Spelling Board Amends Merely to Drop Unnecessary Letters—Words that Have Become Simpler by a Natural Process—Objections to the Reform Answered in Detail.

Providence, R. I., Oct. 27.—Prof. Brand Matthews discussed "Simplification of English Spelling" before the Rhode Island Institute of Instruction. Mr. Matthews said in part:

English is the worst of all the modern languages because its orthography is not reducible to rule. Its spelling is so freakish, so violent, and so absurd that it rejects all analogies.

The ideal spelling of any language would be that in which there were one sound for one symbol. There are forty sounds in English and only twenty-three possible symbols. But that is not the worst. If we had loaded almost every one of our twenty-three symbols with the duty of representing only two separate sounds, that would be bad enough, but it would not be so bad as the situation which confronts us.

Let me illustrate what I mean. Here is a list of English words, short Anglo-Saxon words, in which the spelling is perfectly satisfactory: Sad, slap, self, smash, strong, strength. Here is a second group of longer words derived from the Greek which are also satisfactory: Evident, ability, regular, memorial, monophony, biology.

But when we look at certain other groups we are brought almost to the brink of despair. Take this group, for example, perhaps the most famous examples of the absurdity of our spelling which exist: Cough, dough, thorough, rough, through, hough, plough, though, and again a group beginning with the sound of "n": Anon, pneumonia, gnaw, mnemonics. There are seven words in which the sound of "e" in "let" is represented by seven different symbols, or combinations of symbols. Let, heifer, says, many, head, regard, said.

The sound "sh" in "ship" is represented by eight distinct combinations: Ship, suspicion, ocean, anxious, sure, conscience, notion, issue.

Phonetic Reform Hopes.

Phonetic reform of any kind is hopeless. To spend time in setting down its possible advantages is to waste time. This is one reason why the simplified spelling board has not advocated any scheme of phonetic reform. And it does not intend to advocate anything of the sort. I say this emphatically, because so many of the opponents of our movement have accused us of being phonetic reformers.

If they do so hereafter, in spite of our formal disclaimer, they will be dishonest. There is no lack of words which can be done. Every one who knows anything at all about the growth of the English language, knows that the English language has been slowly changing its spelling, and that the spelling of to-day is simpler, more accurate, and on the whole better than the spelling of yesterday, and that the spelling of yesterday is, on the whole, simpler and more accurate than the spelling of the day before yesterday.

Here are a few words which have been changed. In Shakespeare's time "sun" was spelled "sunne," "bat" was spelled "batter," "fish" was spelled "fyshe," "music" was spelled "musike," "fantasy" was spelled "phantasie," "era" was spelled "aera," and "economy" was spelled "oeconomie." The changes in the spelling of the last few hundred years are only a few examples of the thousands of others that have been made, and all these changes are in accord with the principle of simplification by omission.

Which has been at work from the beginning. It is not a new thing, which the simplified spelling board has taken over, but a principle which has been at work from the beginning.

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LAKE FISH IN PERIL

Food Varieties Succumbing to Attacks of Carp.

WARFARE UNDER THE WATERS

Whitefish, the Splendid Fish of the Great Lakes, in Danger of Extinction Through Ravages of Finny Enemies—Government Asked to Place Bounty on Carp.

Detroit, Oct. 27.—As trappers and hunters of olden days looked mournfully on the advance of a civilization that drove their quarry from mountain and plain and left the rolling prairie devoid of the thunder of the hoofs of hundreds of buffalo, so the hoary haired fishermen who haunt the shores of the Great Lakes, like the ghosts of a departed past, are watching the rapid disappearance from the waters that they have come to love so well of fish that once were common, but now have become almost a luxury.

And if these old salts may be believed, civilization is in a great measure responsible for the depopulation of the waters of the Great Lakes of these much-sought members of the finny tribe. They blame a civilization that has sent hundreds of steam boats thundering in and out river and lake, that has crowded the shoals with pile drivers and dredges, that has filled the waters with the spawn of foreign fish, whose only occupation has become to prey upon the spawn of the lake, that the palates of the people demand.

Are Becoming Depleted.

Unknown to the average man, a great battle has been waging in the waters under the surface. The war has been between the strong and the weak, the fish that civilization will not eat and the fish that civilization demands. According to the men whose lives and fortunes depend upon the amount of fish they catch, the weak are losing out, and the world is facing a famine in fresh water fish.

For relief fishermen and those who deal in the catch look to the government. There is a growing sentiment that the hatcheries should plant in the waters of the Great Lakes more spawn of fish that are in demand. But more important than all, fishermen are crying out that the destroyers must be destroyed. Place a bounty on the German carp, they say. Pay men for catching them and freeing the rivers and lakes from their death-dealing blight.

Governments have placed a bounty on such animals as destroy American song birds. Why not on a fish that does nothing but destroy? Why not on a fish that is in the land demands? This is the argument they use.

From a purely local standpoint, it is the whitefish that is in peril. Local fishermen declare that whitefish has been scarce for some time. But more important, there is a growing sentiment that the hatcheries should plant in the waters of the Great Lakes more spawn of fish that are in demand.

Statistics show that forty years ago the catch of Detroit River whitefish averaged 1,000,000 annually. In recent years this magnificent showing has fallen to less than 30,000. Local fishermen and others interested in the whitefish industry are crying out that the destroyers must be destroyed.

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GAMES FOR HALLOWEEN.

Amusements in Which Both Old and Young May Join.

Give each child the name of a nut. Tell a story using the names, and as each nut is named the child must jump up and turn around quickly, saying its assumed name. When the story tells the word "forest," all the children jump up, turn around and call their names and change places. The first one in place has to take up the story and continue it.

Bobbing for apples will never quite go out of fashion for Halloween fun. Vary the game by taking the cores out of the apples. In the hollow place some blue toy indicative of one's future, a gun for a soldier, a fishhook for a fisherman, or an oar for a sailor, a pen for a writer, a needle for a seamstress, etc. Wrap these in paraffin paper, place the top on the apples and fasten it by string and let the children bob for them.

Here is an old nursery game, but it must be played with older people in the ring to watch the fire. Take a small stick or candle, light it so it has only a spark and pass it from player to player, each repeating these words: "Jack's alive and likely to live. If he dies in my hand a forfeit I will give." If a lighted candle is held, the players try to blow it out while the player says his rhyme. If the light dies, the player must give some object, a penny, button, ring, handkerchief, to be redeemed later. For the benefit of the children who have for children told how to play "Redeeming Forfeits," this is given.

One child is chosen to sit blindfolded in a chair and a second to sell the forfeit. The second player takes a ring or other object, holds it over the head of the blindfolded player and they say: "Fine or superfine? Fine." "What shall the owner do to redeem it? Walk on all fours and bark like a dog." The owner of the ring must do as the forfeit says. If the owner is a girl, she is "superfine." A word to the mother who may think this a dangerous game for children.

It is much wiser to allow your child to handle matches and fire under your supervision, teaching him to keep it away from his face and clothing and to have water handy for quenching, than to instruct him to handle matches and fire under your supervision.

Instead of a fishpond or a grab bag at the Halloween party, try a "Chinese Laundry." Have a grown person dressed as a Chinese laundryman, with a long queue, funny face and big eyes, carry a basket on his arm. Wrap toys in mysterious bundles. Give children grains of popped popcorn and let him bid for a toy by the number of grains he can eat.

Draw out a bundle. Of course, the laundryman will make many funny gestures, talk pigeon English, and make lots of fun. He can be accompanied by two little boys in Chinese dwarfs or monkeys to help the fun.

DIAMONDS MORE COSTLY.

Sparklers Cost Twenty Per Cent More This Year Than Last.

From the New York Sun.

To buy diamonds for holiday presents will cost this year at least 20 per cent more than twelve months ago. Wholesale dealers are now notifying the retail trade of the increased prices which have been paid for diamonds in the market.

The increase is explained by new conditions in the trade and do not come, as in former years, in the style of formal announcements from the London syndicate which controls the output of the De Beers Mining Company, Limited.

The syndicate, which had annually declared three or four advances, each of one-half to one and one-half carats. The price is the unfavorable assuring in many shipments.

The stones come in sizes, shapes, and qualities that do not yield on cutting as many high grade gems in the commercial sizes as in former years. The sizes most sought by the jewelers are from one-half to one and one-half carats. The diamond manufacturers say that they are getting many large stones in cleaving which there is much waste, and that the proportion of stones with flaws and blemishes is increased.

Another element is labor, and according to manufacturers they now pay much higher wages than a year ago, when the men do not cut and polish as many stones as a Nassau street manufacturer said as this:

"The cost of polishing diamonds is double what it was a year ago. All of the manufacturers are complaining of the high cost of labor. The cost of diamonds is double what it was a year ago. All of the manufacturers are complaining of the high cost of labor.

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TRAITOR AS QUARRY

Bold Attempt to Capture Benedict Arnold Failed.

DESERTER WAS HEAD OF PLOT

Death of a Michigan Man Recalls a Bit of Little Known Revolutionary History in Which His Grandfather Was Principal—A Clever Scheme Bailed by Sudden Change of Orders.

Jackson, Mich., Oct. 27.—The recent death in this city of Melvin D. Champe recalls an interesting bit of revolutionary history in which his grandfather, John Champe, played the principal part. It was an attempt to capture Benedict Arnold, after that notorious traitor's treachery, and deliver him into the hands of Washington.

John Champe, born in Virginia in 1752, was a friend of the famous "Light Horse Harry" Lee, the intimate friend of Washington, gallant commander of cavalry and the father of America's greatest general, Robert E. Lee. When the war of the revolution broke out, Champe enlisted in Maj. Lee's corps, and at the time of the great treason, when Arnold contracted with the British to deliver West Point to their hands, he was in the British camp, and he was the first to deliver the news of the plot to the British.

Arnold's business seriously affected the whole American army. The discovery of the treachery of a friend of Washington, and one of his favorite generals, everywhere, if such baseness was possible, in such a person, who could be trusted? Arnold had escaped to New York, and was received with honor by the British commander, Gen. Clinton. But there were thousands of patriot hearts which longed to grasp him and lead him to the gallows.

Planned a Descent.

This, one of the darkest periods of the revolution, was in 1780. Washington, after the battle of Red Bank, had been driven to Lancaster, and then to York, and finally to Philadelphia. The British were in the city, and the American army was in the field. The British were in the city, and the American army was in the field.

Lee was asked to recommend a man for the supreme dangerous mission, and spoke the name of John Champe as one who had the courage, the audacity, and the discretion. Champe was brought before Washington and Lee, and after the plan was outlined, he was asked to undertake the mission. At first he objected. The feigning of the desertion and joining the legion of traitors repelled him.

"My life is my country's, but my honor is my own," he declared. The argument was that a certain patriot general was suspected and that it was of prime importance to either get assurance of his fidelity or of his treachery was the determining one. Champe said he knew the general was innocent, and he would undertake the mission to clear him.

Chased Aboard a Britisher.

On a dark and rainy night, Champe mounted his horse and passed the American lines. But he was seen, and the incident was at once reported to the British. The British were in the city, and the American army was in the field.

When Champe reached the sea shore, at Newark Bay, near East Bergen, the pursuit was close at his heels. He threw himself from his horse and plunged into the water, and was seen by the British. The British were in the city, and the American army was in the field.

Arnold's Orders Changed.

Champe immediately began to lay his plans. He had been given the names of two trusted spies in New York, and he had been given the names of two trusted spies in New York.

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CORAL COMING INTO USE.

Importers Trying to Have It Classified as a Precious Stone.

To have coral classified from a customs point of view as a precious stone is the object of a movement recently started by several prominent importing firms. There has been this year a notable revival of the use of fine coral for jewelry purposes, and efforts are now being made to build up a coral carving industry here.

Importers have just filed with the board of United States general appraisers protests against the classification which the customs authorities have followed for years in assessing duty on coral which has been cut, carved, or polished for use in making jewelry. Such articles have been placed in a list of manufactures dutiable at 50 per cent ad valorem.